

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, and 20-43 were previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,455,894 (hereinafter “Matsumoto”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111021 (hereinafter “Paton”). Claims 1, 8, 13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,739,574 (hereinafter “Nakamura”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, “the isolation region comprising a dielectric material in a recess in the semiconductor substrate.” The cited references fail to teach or disclose this feature, and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections thereof be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to recite, “the at least one dummy silicide structure comprising a silicide layer and a dielectric layer, the dielectric layer being a separate layer from the isolation region.” The cited references fail to teach or disclose this feature, and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections thereof be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 6-12 depend from claim 1, and claims 14 and 17-19 depend from claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Roger C. Knapp, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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